

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 20, lines 5-16 with the following text:

Specifically, the control unit 260 gives instructions to the image processing unit 250 to extract the outline of the right thumb from the last obtained biometric image (step S305), calculate the agreement (correlation) with the outline reference data 291a, and determine if the agreement meets a given standard (step S306). For example, from edge detection and digitization, the pixel block of the outline portion is represented by an outline data value of "1," and, by comparison ~~exclusive disjunction~~ of the pixel values of two pieces of outline data from the same location, the number of pixels whose result is "1" (having an identical pixel value) is defined as the level of agreement, and compared to a set standard value.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 25 and ending on page 26, line 5 with the following text:

In similar fashion, the control unit 260 obtains iris characteristic data from the operator and reference characteristic data, deposits both in the temporary data storage unit 293 (step S342), then compares the two sets of characteristic data and calculates the agreement value ~~C1~~ C2 (step S343). For example, the control unit 260 can compare the iris code included in each set of characteristic data, determine the Hamming distance, and use it as the agreement value C2.